



PASADENA FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Prevention Bureau

215 N Marengo Ave. 195, Pasadena, CA 91101

Phone: (626) 744-0000 www.cityofpasadena.net/fire

OUTDOOR DINING – TENT / PROPANE HEATER GUIDELINES

This information is being provided by the Pasadena Fire Department as a summary of the 2019 California Fire Code and has been adopted by City Ordinance as Title 14.28.010 of the Pasadena Municipal Code. The following guidelines are to be adhered to:

Tents and Canopies

- There is no distinction between tents, canopies or umbrellas with or without walls
- 12 foot Fire break required for every 70 linear feet of 10 x 10 tents
- Anchorage is required (ropes, weights) to withstand weather and prevent collapsing
- Small Tents (under 10 occupancy) – conform to CPAI 84 for fabric fire resistance
- Large Tents (over 10) – conform to SFM fire resistive standard
- Fire Resistance Tag/Seal of Registration must be intact, legible and securely affixed
- Occupancy load, egress width, chair, table and aisle requirements mirror other assembly uses
- Tents must be maintained free of combustible materials
- A minimum distance of 20 Feet is required for any open flame device, heating appliance, generators or parked vehicles
- If the address number on a building is not visible from the street, signage must be added to the street side of the tent
- If any fire department connections are not visible from the street, signage must be added to the street side of the tent identifying such
- Fire hydrants may not obstructed
- Tent walls are to be clear for vehicular and pedestrian traffic when located in the street , alley or sidewalk. Non-clear walls are not permitted

Fire Extinguishers

- The minimum legal size is 2A 10BC with an annual inspection (by Cal SFM registered company) must be noted on tag or label
- Fire extinguishers are required every 75 feet of foot travel

Propane

- The use and storage of propane shall be approved under permit from the Pasadena Fire Department and the Pasadena Municipal Code. Contact Kim Yu, kyu@cityofpasadena.net with any inquiries
- Propane cylinders shall be DOT approved, in serviceable condition and used in accordance with manufacturer's documentation

- Storage of cylinders, full or empty, shall be outside and secured within suitable enclosures with approved placards, signs and labels installed in an approved manner
- Storage and use of cylinders shall be a minimum of ten feet from weeds, grass, brush, trash and other combustible materials
- Approved vehicle impact protection shall be installed in storage areas adjacent to or near any vehicular driving surface
- Smoking is prohibited within 25 feet of propane
- Approved signs stating “No Smoking” shall be conspicuously posted near the storage area
- The storage area shall be no closer than 25 feet to any source of ignition
- Cylinders in storage and in use shall be positioned with the pressure relief valve in direct communication with the vapor space of the container
- Equipment associated with propane cylinders, including hoses, shall be in serviceable condition and used in accordance with manufacturer’s documentation
- Propane cylinders and appliances shall be located outside and not be placed closer than 10 feet from tents or canopies and 5 feet from buildings and means of egress
- Pressure relief devices shall be pointed away from the public, heat producing appliances, sources of ignition, tents, membrane structures and temporary special event structures
- Propane cylinders shall not be positioned closer than five feet from heat producing appliances
- Safety devices on cylinders shall not be tampered with or rendered ineffective
- Propane shall be used with approved fire extinguishers in close proximity
- Location of tanks shall provide protection from physical damage or other hazards
- Propane cylinders shall be secured in place, in an approved manner
- Propane is not allowed inside tents
- Mushroom type propane heaters are not allowed inside of or within 10 feet of tents
- Ducted propane heating systems may be permitted when installed per the PMC and manufacturers specifications

Electrical Heaters

- Electrical heaters may be permitted when installed and operated per the PMC and manufacturers specifications
- Electrical cords must be covered in an approved manner to avoid any trip hazards and heaters from tipping over

Required Fire Permits

- Storage or Use of Propane
- Place of Assembly
- Open Flame Cooking and Candles
- Tents over 400 sq. ft.

Exceptions: Tents without walls:

- Individual tent not over 700 sq. ft.
- Aggregate area of contiguous tents not over 700 sq. ft.
- Minimum clearance of 12 ft. from other tents and structures

